

[W. O. Eubanks]

[?]

Range-Lore

Annie McAulay

Maverick, Texas

RANGE-LORE

W. O. Eubanks was born in Comanche County in 1887. His father, Alec Eubank moved with his family to Coke County in 1889, and settled on a ranch near Robert Lee.

W. O. Eubanks says: "I was so young when I started riding that I can't remember just how old I was. My father always had plenty of saddle horses on his ranch and of course it was natural that I learn to ride purty young.

"We done most of our work, rounding up, when I was a kid on the O'Daniel ranch. All the neighboring ranches would throw in together and have one big round-up. They'd always round up in the fall and spring.

"I can remember the first big round-up I helped with on the O'Daniel's ranch. I was ten or twelve years old. All the ranchers got together and made J. R. Smith the wagon boss. There was 2 about 4,000 head to be rounded up. They brought them together on the old round-up ground west of the river. I helped to hold the herd while the older ones rounded up and did the cutting, branding, and all the harder work. They'd usually pick the very best riders to hold the cuts, as they were pretty hard to hold away from the main herd.

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"I was helpin' to drive three hundred steers to a northern market once. We was camped near Blackwell when they went loco and stampeded on us. We had penned the stuff in a small enclosure on a ranch. Around ten o'clock one of the boys unsaddled his pony out near the cattle pen, and not thinking, threw his chaps on something. In doing that, he made a sudden noise which frightened some of the steers. The whole herd started running and in just a moment they broke through the fence like it wasn't there, and they were gone. They ran several miles before we could ride in front of them and get them started to milling.

"There was a good many horse ranchers in this country when I was young. My father raised horses for saddle use. He used to take them East and trade 'em for cattle. Brother and I did nearly all the breakin' of the horses. We'd ride 'em when they were two year olds and then sell or trade them.

"[??] and I took a small bunch of cattle to Sweetwater for Lee Richards when I was about fifteen years 3 old. Mr. Richards had told us to try to get 'em up there at a certain time. But they got tired and finally got so slow we couldn't get 'em to move.

"We found an old worn wash tub by the side of the road. I picked it up, rode at the herd and banged it as hard as I could. Well, the old pokeys left out. They ran and ran and got so scattered that it took us about three hours to get 'em together again.

"Dessa Calloway was the best lady rider I ever knew. She could ride horses and work cattle like a man. She could ride broncs or anything. She learned to ride on her father's ranch.

"Henry Alsup was the best all 'round rider and bronc buster I ever knew. He could ride 'em forwards, backwards, upside down or any old way. He was one good horseman. I've seen him ride lots of broncs. He broke some horses for my father and showed me the works some, too.

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“How quickly times change things. When I was a small boy I could walk out in the pasture anywhere and pick up sets of buffalo horns. Carcasses covered the hillsides everywhere. There were deer, wild turkeys, and panthers in the rougher section of the county.”

REFERENCE:- W. O. Eubanks, Bronte, Texas. Interviewed September 13, 1938.